

Remarks

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in view of the above amendments and in light of the following remarks and discussion, is respectfully requested

Claims 1-5 and 16-29 are currently pending in the application; Claim 1 having been amended, withdrawn Claims 9-15 having been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer; and new dependent Claims 16-29 having been added, by way of the present response. Applicants respectfully assert that support for the changes to the claims is self-evident from the originally filed disclosure, including the original claims, and that therefore no new matter has been added.

Initially, Applicants respectfully note that the outstanding Office Action was issued in response to a Request for Continued Examination (RCE), which requested entry and consideration of the Amendment filed on October 14, 2003, the Amendment having been denied entry as requiring further consideration or search.

Thus, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner's clarification that the Office Action is not a final action on the merits, in as much as it may be relevant, in the next Patent Office communication.

In the outstanding Office Action Claims 1-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,094,234 to Warburg. Applicants respectfully assert that the amendments to the claims have overcome the rejection for the following reasons.

The present invention is directed to glass products. Independent Claim 1 recites a collar open to an exterior of the container interposed between and communicating with a main container body and a secondary container body. The collar has an axis that is not parallel to an axis of the main container body and an axis of the secondary container body.

Warburg is directed to a container. The Office Action asserts that the outer vessel 10, the leg 17, and the leg 16 are analogous to the claimed features of a main container body, a

secondary container body, and a collar. Applicants respectfully assert that even if Applicants agreed with these assertions, which Applicants do not, Warburg still does not teach the claimed features recited in independent Claim 1.

Applicants respectfully assert that Warburg does not teach the claimed features of a collar open to an exterior of the container interposed between and communicating with a main container body and a secondary container body, as recited in independent Claim 1. Rather, Applicants respectfully assert that Warburg does not show or state the leg 16 open to an exterior of the container, for example.

Specifically, independent Claim 1 recites “a collar open to an exterior of the container interposed between and communicating with said main container body and the secondary container body.” Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of independent Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn, and the allowance of independent Claim 1.

Applicants respectfully assert that Claims 2-5 and 16-29 are allowable for the same reasons as independent Claim 1, from which they depend, as well as for their own features. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of dependent Claims 2-5 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn, and the allowance of dependent Claims 2-5 and 16-29.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal Allowance. A Notice of Allowance for Claims 1-5 and 16-29 is earnestly solicited.

Application No. 09/534,973

Reply to Office Action of August 12, 2004

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000

Fax: (703) 413 -2220

(OSMMN 06/04)

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Gregory J. Maier

Registration No. 25,599

Attorney of Record

Philip J. Hoffmann

Registration No. 46,340

GJM/PH/me

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